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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH [IN/IN]; V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar Post Box 4911, New Delhi 110 029 (IN). UNIVERSITY OF DELHI [IN/IN]; University of Delhi South Campus, Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi 110 021 (IN).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TYAGI, Anil, Kumar [IN/IN]; Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi South Campus Benito, Juarez Road, New Delhi 110 021 (IN). SINGH, Ramandeep [IN/IN]; Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi South Campus Benito, Juarez Road, New Delhi 110 021 (IN). RAO, Vivek [IN/IN]; Department of Biochemistry, University of Delhi South Campus Benito, Juarez Road, New Delhi 110 021 (IN). RAMANATHAN, Vadakkuppattu, Devasenapathi [IN/IN]; Tuberculosis Research Centre, Mayor V.R. Ramanathan Road Chetput, Chennai (IN). PARAMASIVAN, Chinnambedu, Nainarappan [IN/IN]; Tuberculosis Research Centre, Mayor V.R. Ramanathan Road Chetput, Chennai (IN). NARAYANAN, Paranj, Ramaiyenger [IN/IN]; Tuberculosis Research Centre, Mayor V.R. Ramanathan Road Chetput, Chennai (IN). SINGH, Yogendra [IN/IN]; Institute of Integrative Biology, Mall Road, Delhi 110 007 (IN).

(74) Agents: HARIHARAN, Rajeshwari et al.; K & S Partners, 84-C, C6 Lane off Central Avenue Sainik Farms, New Delhi 110 062 (IN).

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(54) Title: MUTANTS OF MYCOBACTERIA AND PROCESS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides mutant *Mycobacterium* strains harboring a modified tyrosine phosphatase gene (*mtpA* or *mtpB*) wherein the mutant *Mycobacterium* strain is incapable of expressing the active tyrosine phosphatase. The invention provides a method for developing the said mutant strain from either *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *Mycobacterium bovis*. The *mtpA* or *mtpB* gene may be modified by replacing the internal sequences with an antibiotic resistance marker gene, which disrupts the expression of the active gene. The invention further provides a recombinant vector comprising the modified *mtpA* or *mtpB* which may be used to develop the mutant strains of mycobacteria. The invention provides a method to assess the role of tyrosine phosphatases MtpA and MtpB in the virulence and pathogenesis of *Mycobacterium* which can be used as potential targets for developing anti-tubercular drug.

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